



Billing Code: 8025-01

## **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

### **Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** 30-Day Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Small Business Administration (SBA) is publishing this notice to comply with requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), which requires agencies to submit proposed reporting and recordkeeping requirements to OMB for review and approval, and to publish a notice in the Federal Register notifying the public that the agency has made such a submission. This notice also allows an additional 30 days for public comments.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to the information collection by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to : *Agency Clearance Officer*, Curtis Rich, Small Business Administration, 409 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, S.W., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C. 20416; and *SBA Desk Officer*, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Curtis Rich, Agency Clearance Officer, (202) 205-7030 [curtis.rich@sba.gov](mailto:curtis.rich@sba.gov)

**COPIES:** A copy of the Form OMB 83-1, supporting statement, and other documents submitted to OMB for review may be obtained from the Agency Clearance Officer.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

In October 2014, a new cohort of sites was added to the Regional Innovation Clusters (RIC) initiative, which was originally started in October 1, 2010 by the Small Business Administration (SBA)'s Office of Entrepreneurial Development. Through this initiative, organizations in 11 communities across the U.S. have been selected to provide industry-specific assistance to small businesses, and to develop industry relationships and supply chains within their regions. Clusters—geographically concentrated groups of interconnected businesses, suppliers, service providers, and associated institutions in a particular industry or field—act as a networking hub to convene a number of resources to help navigate the funding, procurement, and supply-chain opportunities in a specific industry.

SBA is conducting an evaluation of the Regional Innovation Clusters initiative to determine how the clusters have developed, the type and volume of services they provided to small businesses, client perceptions of the program, and the various outcomes related to their existence, including collaboration among firms, innovation, and small business growth. Small business growth will be compared to the overall growth of firms in those same regions and industries. This evaluation will also include lessons learned and success stories. SBA proposes the use of three instruments for data collection and analysis of three distinct populations. These instruments are: 1.) Small Business Survey, 2.) Large Organization Survey and 3.) Cluster Administrator Survey. In addition, SBA plans to interview each of the 11 cluster administrators several times a year regarding program impact and successes or challenges, and to obtain clarifications on information provided in quarterly reports. Each of the proposed surveys will be administered

electronically and will contain both open- and close-ended questions. The information collected and analyzed from these instruments will contribute to monitoring performance metrics and program goals, as well as recommendations on improving program practices.

**Solicitation of Public Comments:**

**Title:** Regional Innovation Clusters (RIC) Initiative Evaluation Study

**Description of Respondents:** Interconnected businesses, Suppliers, Service providers, and associated institutions

**Form Number:** N/A

**Estimated Annual Responses:** 1,240

**Estimated Annual Hour Burden:** 388

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